

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace those previously submitted.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (previously presented) A method for packaging a product arranged in a tray located within a sealing chamber having an upper part and a lower part which are movable relative to each other wherein an upper film located in a distance above the product is clamped along an edge surrounding the tray and after the film is clamped, the film is stretched in a direction extending away from the product and pulled from the clamped edge, and wherein after the film is stretched, the tray is raised relative to the upper film, and then after the tray is raised, the edge of the tray and the upper film are sealed, wherein the clamping of the edge of the upper film is carried out by means of closing the chamber parts, and wherein the space surrounding the product is evacuated before sealing.

2. (Canceled)

3. (previously presented) A method for packaging a product arranged in a tray according to claim 1, wherein the space surrounding the product is filled with a gas before sealing.

Claims 4-9 (Canceled)

10. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the upper film is stretched in a direction extending upwardly away from the product.